

Our Green List

MOTIVATION

It is our belief that the Tin Shed should play a role in supporting sustainable tourism and retailing in both our local area and New Zealand as a whole.

We support the "100% Pure" brand line of Tourism New Zealand and believe it is a goal we should aspire to.

Outlined below are some of the key areas and initiatives that we have embarked upon in a quest to promote sustainable retailing and tourism at the Tin Shed.

SHOP AND PRODUCT RANGE

The Tin Shed's primary goal is to sell and promote New Zealand made knitwear and related items that have been created from New Zealand's own natural fibres, merino wool, possum fur, mohair, alpaca and sheepskin.

Staff at the Tin Shed all passionately support New Zealand made products and enjoy wearing NZ-made merino wool and merino possum clothing for most months of the year. Merino wool is a truly renewable natural fibre produced on our high country stations where the sheep are shorn each year.

The Tin Shed sells products made from the fur of the brush tail possum, a pest that was introduced from Australia that is now destroying our native forests and bird life.

Several ranges of New Zealand made skincare products are stocked at the Tin Shed and several of these are based on New Zealand's unique manuka honey, a honey that has remarkable healing and antibacterial properties.

Other skin care ranges are based on lanolin the natural oil extracted from the wool of sheep.

The Tin Shed stocks *Living Nature* 100% natural skin care range. Living Nature bases its products on Manuka honey and extracts from our indigenous flora and became one of the first companies in the world to use plant based rather than chemical preservatives.

The products that the Tin Shed sell are sourced from all parts of New Zealand but we do take a special pride in sourcing goods whenever possible that are made locally in our South Canterbury area. At present locally based manufacturers and crafts people are supplying us with hand woven scarves, leather hats for men and lambskin hats and gloves for women.

The Tin Shed stocks a range of knitting yarns made in New Zealand from merino wool, alpaca, kid mohair and merino-possum blends. We understand the importance of preserving and promoting the skills of hand knitting and we have a small group of competent local knitters who knit garments for sale in the shop.

RECYCLING, COMPOSTING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Tin Shed participates in our local Timaru District *Waste Minimisation Programme*. This programme attempts to reduce the amount of rubbish that is sent to landfill by encouraging the recycling and composting of waste. Customers at the Tin Shed are encouraged to dispose of their waste using the appropriate recycling, compost and landfill bins situated just outside the shop.

Inward goods that arrive at the shop come in cardboard cartons. These cartons are reused for packaging, sent for recycling or used as a weed suppressing biodegradable mat on our gardens.

Used clear plastic bags and courier bags are collected and sent for recycling.

Roller cloth towels that are laundered after use have been introduced to our rest rooms so that paper towel use could be reduced. The remaining paper towels that are used are sent for composting after use.

In the office paper waste has been reduced by using the back of any waste paper for computer printing and copying. Paper that cannot be reused is sent for recycling.

Manure from our farm animals is collected each week and put into our composting bins to decompose. It is later used to enrich the soil on the gardens that surround the shop.

Paper packaging is now the preferred way we package customer purchases although there are occasions when we still have to use plastic bags.

Cardboard cups have replaced polystyrene cups for customer hot drinks. Unfortunately they are still not biodegradable but we are on the search for one that is heat resistant enough for our customers to hold.

The large river stones that are a naturally occurring feature of our area have been collected from the paddocks and used in the gardens around the shop. When these stones are massed in walls or on the ground they provide a nice warm habitat for the native lizards and geckos of the Rangitata area to live in.

The gardens around the Tin Shed are planted in New Zealand's unique native plants and trees. These plants are naturally adapted to our local environment and can withstand considerable summer drought without needing to be watered. Each year more shrubs and trees are planted and they are encouraging the colonisation of native insects and birds.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Electricity is used wisely at the Tin Shed and switches are turned off and devices unplugged when not in use.

The shop is heated and cooled using energy efficient electrical heat pumps powered by sustainable hydro electricity.

We attempt to reduce our petrol consumption through staff car-pooling. Unnecessary trips are avoided by purchasing in bulk and by encouraging staff who are already travelling into town to do small errands at the same time.

A recently installed interior glass door at the front of the shop has enabled us to close the door in winter and retain heat yet still show customers that we are open for business. The outer tin door used to have to remain open and the heat loss was very wasteful.

The hot water cylinder that provides hot water to our rest rooms has been set at 58°C. This temperature provides an ideal balance between energy saving and customer comfort and hygiene.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Tin Shed plays an active role in supporting our local community, helping in charity fundraising and supporting and participating in local events such as fund raising fashion parades.

The Tin Shed is also collecting donations towards the local branch of the St John's Ambulance in lieu of customers who wish to contribute to the free tea and coffee that we provide.

The Tin Shed endeavours to source its everyday supplies and services from local businesses and tradesmen wherever possible. The Tin Shed is also an active founding member of *Go Geraldine* a local community group working to promote business growth in our area.

The Tin Shed is a member of the NZ Retailers Association, Central South Island and Ashburton District Tourism and Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing.

The Tin Shed is a current financial member of *Buy New Zealand Made*, an organisation that promotes the manufacture and sale of New Zealand made products.

CONTACT US

We welcome any feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to email us at tinshed@paradise.net.nz

